

Message Text

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TAGS PFOR

SUBJ CSCE FOLLOW-ON: STATE OF PLAY

REF USNATO 249

1. COORDINATING COMMITTEE HELD GENERAL DISCUSSION OF CSCE FOLLOW-ON JANUARY 22, EASTERN DELEGATIONS, SUPPORTED BY SOME NEUTRALS, REITERATED NEED FOR EARLY STUDY OF FOLLOW-ON POSSIBILITIES. NETHERLANDS CONTINUED TO STRESS THAT NEED FOR FOLLOW-ON CAN ONLY BE JUDGED WHEN OUTCOME OF CONFERENCE IS MORE APPARENT THAN IT IS NOW. COORDINATING COMMITTEE AGREED THAT PROVISION BE MADE FOR WORKING GROUP ON FOLLOW-ON TO MEET DURING SECOND HALF OF NEXT WORKING PERIOD (I.E., LATE FEBRUARY), DEPENDENT ON CONFIRMING DECISION OF COORDINATING COMMITTEE EARLY IN FEBRUARY.

2. IN CONNECTION WITH JANUARY 29 DISCUSSION OF FOLLOW-ON IN SPC AT NATO (REFTEL), IT MAY BE USEFUL TO RECALL POSITIONS WHICH HAVE THUS FAR BEEN TAKEN, EITHER FORMALLY OR WITHIN NATO CAUCUS, ON POLITICAL FOLLOW-ON: THESE ARE: A) CZECH PROPOSAL FOR "ADVISORY COMMITTEE" (ALSO CONFIDENTIAL

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CALLED "CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE) WITH BROAD MANDATE,

MEETINGS "WHENEVER MEMBERS CONSIDER ADVISABLE", AND "TECHNICAL" SECRETARIAT. THIS PROPOSAL IS SUPPORTED BY SOVIET BLOC INCLUDING ROMANIA, AND MAJORITY OF NEUTRALS. B) FRG SUGGESTION FOR CONTINUATION OF COORDINATING COMMITTEE, WITH LIMITED MANDATE AND NO SECRETARIAT, MEETING ONCE OR TWICE A YEAR IN DIFFERENT CAPITALS. THIS IDEA IS SUPPORTED BY DENMARK AND NORWAY. C) FRENCH CONCEPT OF PROBATIONARY PERIOD OF TWO OR THREE YEARS DURING WHICH RESULTS OF CSCE WOULD BE JUDGED. D) DUTCH IDEA OF PROBATIONARY PERIOD FOLLOWED BY "REVIEW CONFERENCE." BELGIAN IDEAS ARE CLOSE TO FRENCH AND DUTCH.

3. DESPITE RESERVED POSITIONS OF SOME WESTERN DELEGATIONS, SEVERAL FACTORS MAY DRAW WESTERN COUNTRIES TOWARD ACCEPTANCE AND EVEN DESIRABILITY OF CONTINUING MULTILATERAL POLITICAL ACTIVITY AFTER CSCE. MANY WESTERN DELS HOPE TO SATISFY THE NEED FELT BY NEUTRALS AND ROMANIA FOR A CONTINUING FORUM; MANY WANT TO CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR CONCRETE MEASURES WHICH CSCE IS UNLIKELY TO ACHIEVE; AND SEVERAL HOPE FOR A MECHANISM FOR SURVEILLANCE OF BASKET III AGREEMENTS. WITH A VARIETY OF TECHNICAL FOLLOW-ON ACTIVITY VIRTUALLY ASSURED, SOME FORM OF COORDINATION MAY ALSO BE SEEN AS A PRACTICAL NECESSITY.

4. ALTHOUGH FIRM POSITIONS WILL NOT BE TAKEN FOR A WHILE YET AND WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE VARIOUS PARTICIPANTS' SATISFACTION OR LACK OF IT WITH THE OVERALL RESULTS OF THE CONFERENCE, THE GENERAL TREND OF THINKING APPEARS TO US TO BE IN THE DIRECTION OF SOME FORM OF POLITICAL FOLLOW-ON. WHILE ANY PREDICTION MUST BE SPECULATIVE AT THIS TIME, WE ARE INCLINED TO THINK, GIVEN THE RELATIVE PROXIMITY OF THE POSITION OF SEVERAL OF OUR ALLIES WITH THE BASIC EASTERN POSITION, THAT THE MOST LIKELY COMPROMISE SOLUTION MAY LIE IN A CONTINUATION OF THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE DURING A PROBATIONARY PERIOD. BASSIN

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